

### REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for further prosecution in the application a single invention from the following four individual groupings of claims:

- I. Claims 1-7, 10, 15, 18-23, and 26-33, drawn to a starch, classified in class 536, subclass 102; and
- II. Claims 8, 16, 24, and 34, drawn to a gypsum slurry, classified in class 106, subclass 772; and
- III. Claims 9, 17, 25, and 35, drawn to a gypsum wallboard ("drywall"), classified in class 52, subclass 344+.
- IV. Claims 36-45, drawn to a method of making a starch composition, classified in class 106, subclass 125.1.

In the Office Action, Applicants note that claims 11-14 were not included in the four individual groupings of claims. For the purposes of this response, Applicants have assumed that claims 11-14 are included in Group I based on their dependency to claim 10.

Responsive to the above-mentioned restriction requirement and subject to the following, Applicants provisionally elect the invention recited in Group I, claims 1-7, 10, 11-15, 18-23, and 26-33, without traverse.

Applicant reserve the right to prosecute the unelected and other claims in future applications, where appropriate. Although the Examiner has not identified any claim as being generic, responsive to this requirement, Applicants note that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional

species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all limitations of the allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

No fee is believed to be required with the filing of this Response. Should any fee be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1110. Should any extension of time be required, please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 11-1110.

### CONCLUSION

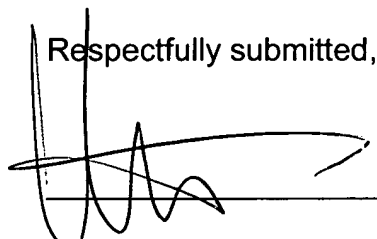
Examination of the claims and passage to allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance to the Examiner in addressing any remaining issue to advance the application to allowance, please contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

March 6, 2007

Date

Respectfully submitted,



William E. Kuss  
Registration No. 41,919

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART PRESTON ELLIS GATES LLP  
Henry W Oliver Building  
535 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312  
Phone: 412.355.6323  
Fax: 412.355.6501  
wkuss@kling.com

Customer No. 41,835